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Message Text

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44
ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 HEW-04 OES-06 AID-05 EB-07 COME-00

CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 EA-07 EUR-12 PC-01 (ISO) W
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R 122305Z AUG 76
FM AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4761

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SGEN, CS
SUBJECT: POSSIBLE FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION ASSISTANCE TO
SOCIAL SECURITY INSTITUTE

1. DR. JAIME GUTIERREZ, HEAD OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF
COSTA RICAN SOCIAL SECURITY INSTITUTE (CAJA DE SEGURIGD
SOCIAL), HAS APPROACHED EMBASSY WITH REQUEST FOR USG
ASSISTANCE IN INSTITUTE'S NEWLY-FOUNDED CENTER FOR PHARMACEUTICAL
STANDARDS. INSTITUTE HAS FOR SOME TIME BEEN CONCERNED ABOUT
INFLUX OF IMPORTED PHARMACEUTICALS, ESPECIALLY THOSE FROM
EASTERN EUROPE, USSR, AND PRC, WHICH DO NOT MEASURE UP
TO WESTERN STANDARDS. MANY ARE IMPORTED IN BULK AND ARE
BEING URGED ON THE INSTITKNE BECAUSE THEY ARE CHEAPER THAN
US OR EUROPEAN BRANDS. UNLESS THE INSTITUTE CAN DEMONSTRATE
THEY ARE OF POOR QUALITY, IT HAS NO REASON TO AVOID PURCHASE.
THD NEW DRUG QUALITY CONTROL CENTER WOULD HAVE THE FINAL
SAY IN SUCH MATTERS. HOWEVER, THE INSTITUTE NEEDS US
TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO SET IT UP.

2. RIGOROUS STANDARDS FOR BOTH THE QUALITY OF THE PRODUCT
AND THE MANUFACTURING PROCESS WHICH WOULD RESULT FROM
THE NEW CENTER WOULD PRESUMABLY BENEFIT U.S. MANUFACTURERS
IN SELLING THEIR PRODUCTS IN COSTA RICA IN COMPETITION
WITH PRODUCERS OF CHEAP BUT INFERIOR PRODUCTS.

3. THERE IS ALSO A POLITICAL DIMENSION TO THE PROBLEM.
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INSTITUTE OFFICIALS, MANY OF WHOM ARE TRAINED IN THE U.S.,

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ARE CONCERNED BY RECENT INROADS OF THE FAR LEFT IN THEIR
GOVERNMENT INSTITUTION. THE EXTREME LEFT CONTROLS THE
PUBLIC EMPLOYEES' UNION THAT STAFFED THE INSTITUTE. THERE
ARE INCREASING OFFERS OF TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE, VISITING
LECTURERS, SPECIAL COURSES, ETC. FROM THE USSR AND EASTERN
EUROPE. A SHOW OF USG INTEREST IN AND ASSISTANCE TO THE
INSTITUTE -- SIMILAR TO PROVISIONS FOR THE SERVICES LAST
JANUARY OF MR. DON HAWKINSON, TECHNICAL ADVISER, DEPARTMENT
OF HEALTH, EDUCATION AND WELFARE -- WOULD HALP THE U.S.-ORIENTED
PROFESSIONAL STAFF TO COUNTER SOCIALIST-COUNTRY INFLUENCE.

4. GUTIERREY HAS SPECIFICALLY REQUESTED THE CONSULTING
SERVICES OF
DR. L. R. SHELTON, DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE OF
INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS OF THE FDA (PARKLAND BUILDING, 5600
FIS LRIES LANE, ROCKVILLE, MD.) OR A MEMBER OF HIS STAFF
TO ASSIST IN THIS PROJECT. CONSULTATION FOR ONE OR TWO
WEEKS IS SUGGESTED FOR THE INITIAL PHASE. DR. SHELTON HAS HAD CONTACT
CT OVER PAST MONTHS WITH DR. ROGELIO PARDO (PEACE CORPS
PHYSICIAN HERE) WHEN THE LATTER VISITED FDA ON BEHALF OF THE
INSTITUTE TO BRING SAMPLES OF SOME BULK DRUGS TO BE TESTED.

5. DR. GUTIERREZ WILLING TO TRAVEL TO WASHINGTON TO
CONSULT WITH DR. SHELTON ABOUT THE INSTITUTE* ,33$
8* $4. SHELTON SO DESIRES.

6. ACTION: DEPARTMENT REQUESTED TO CONTACT DR. SHELTON
TO INQUIRE ABOUT POSSIBILITY OF FDS TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE
FOR COSTA RICAN SOCIAL SECURITY INSTITUTE, WHAT KIND MIGHT
BE AVAILABLE, AND WHAT THE FUNDING ARRANGEMENTS WOULD BE.
WOULD FDA OR SOME OTHER USG AGENCY BE ABLE TO FUND OUT OF
EXISTING PROGRAMS?
TODMAN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DRUG CONTROL, TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE, SCIENTIFIC VISITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 12 AUG 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ElyME
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976SANJO03959
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760312-0427
From: SAN JOSE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760860/aaaacagl.tel
Line Count: 94
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ElyME
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 15 JUL 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <15 JUL 2004 by coburnhl>; APPROVED <27 OCT 2004 by ElyME>
Review Markings:

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Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: POSSIBLE FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION ASSISTANCE TO SOCIAL SECURITY INSTITUTE
TAGS: SGEN, CS, US, FDA, CAJA DE SEGURIGO SOCIAL, (GUTIERREZ, JAIME)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006